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Transportation Outlook

November, 2004



Snow Expo and Rodeo 2004 a Success for the 'Baltimore City Snow Team'

The Department of Transportation held its first Snow Expo and Rodeo on Saturday, October 30, 2004. Over 400 employees from the Department of Transportation, Recreation & Parks and the Department of Public Works came out to the Westside Skills Center to participate in a snow emergency preparedness exercise designed specifically for essential snow personnel.

The day was kicked off with some friendly competition, as snow plow operators from each agency participated in a driving rodeo. Eight operators scored points as they maneuvered a snow plow through an obstacle course without bumping objects along the way. The competition was judged by personnel from the Safety & Training Office and prizes were awarded to the top three drivers. A special grand champion cup was

also presented to the agency that produced the top operator.

After the rodeo, a snow emergency training exercise was held so that employees would gain a better understanding of the responsibilities they would assume during an actual snow emergency. Employees reported to their designated work locations in response to a mock snow event. Snow plow operators drove through their assigned routes and clerical staff worked with the new Snow Track computer software. A full compliment of essential snow personnel participated in the exercise, so that everyone would receive this important training.

The day turned out to be a huge success for the Department of Transportation and all of the snow personnel who attended. Congratulations to Tony Johnson of the Department of Public Works, Brian

Canary of Transportation and Kevin Alexander from Recreation and Parks who won first, second and third place in the snow rodeo competition. And special congratulations to the Department of Public Works for claiming the grand champion cup. Look out DPW, because the Department of Transportation promises some tough competition next year!



'Baltimore Snow Team' employees (l to r) James Wrenn, Tony Johnson, Angelo Grove, Jackie Singleton, Richard Welborn, Kevin Alexander, Brian Canary and Reggie Nash participated in the 2004 Snow Rodeo competition.



Crews work day and night to restore cable service to the Traffic Management Center after the conduit fire on September 20, 2004

Conduit Fire Causes Traffic Problems for Days in City

The end of September was a busy time for the Department of Transportation, due to a massive fire in the underground conduit system. Firefighters battled the blaze from several manholes located at the intersection of Fayette Street and Guilford Avenue. The fire started in the early morning hours of September 20, 2004, and several hours later, BGE had to shut off power to avoid further damages. The fire affected electrical service within a large area north of Baltimore Street, south of Monument Street, east of Charles Street and west of Fallsway. Many busi-

nesses in this vicinity were forced to close for the day, due to the lack of power.

The fire was so destructive that officials could not determine the cause of the blaze. Besides damaging electrical cables, the city's master control cable used to connect traffic signals to the Traffic Management Center (TMC) was also destroyed by the fire. Traffic signals normally controlled by the TMC, located at 414 E. Calvert Street, were all on flash after power was restored. Transportation's STEO's manned the affected intersections while crews

manually reset each signal. Uncontrolled signal timing and the inability to synchronize signals caused commuting problems in the city for several days, as Conduit personnel worked to install a new cable. Once the cable was in place, crews from Traffic's Signal Maintenance Shop worked day and night to connect the master cable to the TMC.

Numerous employees from Transportation's Conduit Division, Traffic Division and the Safety Division worked long hours to ensure that service was properly restored. Many thanks to all the key personnel for a job well done!

Transportation Kicks off Combined Charity Campaign



Transportation Director Al Foxx poses with a Make a Wish spokesperson who's son was granted a wish from the **Make a Wish Foundation**.

The Department of Transportation kicked off its Combined Charity Campaign (CCC) on Thursday, October 28, 2004. Representatives from a variety of organizations, including the Make a Wish Foundation and Associated Black Charities came to Transportation to share information about the services which their associations provide.

This year's theme, **"Help us to help others...It all**

comes back to you!" is the call to city employees to demonstrate their commitment to the citizens of Baltimore. Combined Charity Campaign contributions are used to help many people in need. Donations received by the CCC will help local foundations to improve the lives of citizens living in central Maryland.

The Department of Transportation's goal is \$36,000 this year. By supporting the

more than 360 organizations involved with the CCC, Transportation employees can lend a helping hand to the needy in our communities. Last year, Baltimore City employees and retirees raised more than \$1,150,000 for non-profit agencies that serve Baltimore residents. Consider supporting the CCC to help make this year's campaign a success!



Walk to School Day a Success for Students



Robert Marsili, Jr. reads a proclamation to students at Edgecombe Elementary School for Baltimore's 7th annual 'Walk to School Day'

October 06, 2004 was an exciting day at Edgecombe Circle Elementary School, as students participated in Baltimore's 7th annual **Walk to School Day**. School officials, teachers, parents, crossing guards and police officers took part in this national campaign designed to teach students about pedestrian safety. The Baltimore City Police Motor Unit led a procession around the school, as officials talked with the stu-

dents about safe walking strategies. Special 'dignitaries' joined the walk, including Mac Gruff the Crime Dog, TraumaRoo and Good Neighbor. Department of Transportation personnel also walked with the children to teach them about proper pedestrian behavior. Robert Marsili, Jr., Transportation's Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance, addressed the students and read an official proclamation

signed by Mayor Martin O'Malley. What a fun way for students to learn how to stay safe as they walk to school each day!

Teaching children about pedestrian safety is so important because last year, over 1,000 motor vehicle crashes in Baltimore City involved pedestrians. In 2002, approximately 33% of all pedestrians involved in motor vehicle accidents in the city were younger than 16 years of age.

Maintenance Crew Works With Mayor to Clean Trashy Lot



Mayor O'Malley helps Maintenance workers clean up the trashy lot of a vacant dwelling on Greenspring Avenue.

It was a busy morning on October 7th for one Transportation Maintenance crew, as they worked with Mayor Martin O'Malley to clean up the trashy lot of a vacant house. As part of Public Work's annual fall clean-up, crews from the Department of Transportation cleaned several dirty lots in an effort to reduce

the backlog of service requests in the 311 System. Mayor O'Malley worked alongside Maintenance personnel as they cleaned the yard of an abandoned dwelling on Greenspring Avenue.

The Mayor is committed to cleaning up Baltimore's neighborhoods and Transportation crews were there

to lend a helping hand. Under the leadership of General Superintendent Kenny Ching, crew members Eric Jackson, Vince Neal, Norman Matthews, Todd Dillard, Trebor Walford, Samuel Stokes and Albert Majors-El made a big difference in this city neighborhood. What a great job!

Baltimore City to Receive Transportation Funding Increase

An incremental increase in transportation related fees was passed by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2004 legislative session. This legislation will provide additional money to the city and surrounding counties in order to address transportation safety and congestion relief improvements. Baltimore City will receive an estimated average of \$21.6 million more a year in motor vehicle revenue

funds over the next six years.

"The Department of Transportation is committed to making a real difference for residents and commuters in the city by reducing congestion and improving the transportation infrastructure," said Al Foxx, Director of Baltimore's Department of Transportation. "I want to thank the members of the Baltimore Delegation for their valiant effort to push for

the additional revenue to the city."

The new funding initiative is the first increase in transportation funding in more than ten years.

The Maryland General Assembly holds its legislative sessions from January to April each year. The 419th session of the General Assembly will convene in Annapolis on January 12 through April 11, 2005.



The transportation funding package provides additional money for the city and surrounding jurisdictions in order to address safety and congestion relief improvements.

Pavement Preservation Program Nears Completion

With the winter months lying ahead, the Pavement Preservation Program is quickly coming to an end. Transportation Maintenance crews have milled and paved approximately 12.5 miles of roadway in an effort to prevent roadway deterioration and costly repairs. Pavement preservation work progressed

ahead of schedule throughout most of the paving season, thanks to the hard working crews of the Maintenance Division. Nearly 50 locations have been paved throughout the city since the program began in March of this year.

The Pavement Preservation

Program was designed to improve the city's roadway infrastructure by implementing a planned strategy of cost-effective pavement treatments. This program is the city's new tool for **'keeping good roads good'** and has proven to be a smooth operation for the Department of Transportation!



Maintenance crews repair and pave the 500-600 blocks of Water Street.

Bob Suit Named Acting Chief of Safety

With the departure of former Safety Chief Wendell France, The Department of Transportation had to find new leadership for the multi-faceted Safety Division. Mr. Bob Suit stepped

up to the challenge and was recently named Acting Chief of Safety.

Bob has worked in city government for over 26 years. He began his career as a Traffic

Investigator and worked his way through the ranks to become the Towing Manager at the Pulaski Highway Impound Lot. Keep up the good work, Bob!



Mr. Bob Suit has been named Acting Chief of Transportation's Safety Division.

Open Enrollment Ends November 15th

Attention all employees: Open Enrollment is now in progress! Be sure to review your personalized benefits

enrollment materials carefully so that you can decide which healthcare plan is best for you and your family. Open Enrollment

ends on November 15, 2004 for benefits effective January 01, 2005.

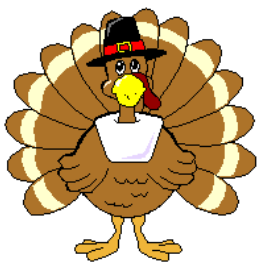
The holiday season is quickly approaching and festivities will soon be underway. Be sure to mark your calendars for the **Baltimore Thanksgiving Parade** on Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. Also, join Mayor Martin O'Malley for the 33rd annual **lighting of Baltimore's Washington Monument** on December 02, 2004 beginning at 6:00 p.m. It will surely be a 'monumental occasion'!

The Department of Transportation would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!





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Happy
Thanksgiving

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BELIEVE

JFX Construction Complete!

Commuters can breathe a sigh of relief as they head into Baltimore, now that construction along the Jones Falls Expressway is complete. The JFX has been undergoing major reconstruction since the fall of 2001. The first phase of the project included the resurfacing of the expressway from Howard Street to the Kelly Avenue bridge, which was complete in August, 2002. Phase II reconstruction, from Howard to Eager Streets began in November of that same year. The purpose of the \$15.4 million project was to widen and re-

align the lanes of traffic in order to soften the curves along this portion of the expressway. Exit lanes were also reconfigured so that a third lane of southbound traffic was added between North Avenue and St. Paul Street. Important safeguards were installed during the construction, including new retaining walls, traffic barriers, drainage, lighting, upgraded signage, glare screens and raised pavement markers. The 2-year project was managed by Transportation Engineering and Construction personnel Dan Zimmerman and Gene West,

who worked with inspectors Russ Wedge and Tim Dominick. With construction completed at the end of September, motorists now have a much smoother and safer commute into the city.



The newly reconstructed Jones Falls Expressway near the Charles Street bridge.



It's that time of year again...the leaves are falling, the weather is turning colder and soon we may hear the word 'snow' in the weather forecast. Now is the time to start preparing for winter weather emergencies. Check your vehicle's battery, windshield wipers and tires. Prepare an emergency driving kit and keep emergency supplies in your vehicle. For more information, log onto www.396SNOW.com. Be sure to download a copy of the newly revised 2004 Snow Brochure!

Wall of Fame Luncheon a treat for DOT's Super Achievers

Wall of Fame employees were treated to a special luncheon in their honor on Thursday, October 28, 2004. Department of Transportation Director Al Foxx organized the lunch to commend the employees on being selected for the **Wall of Fame** and doing such a good job.

"As Director of this Department, I feel it is important to acknowledge those who are doing an outstanding job," said Director Foxx. "We need to recognize those individuals who work hard each day to meet the goals and objectives of this organization."

As a reward for being selected for the **Wall of Fame**, each employee was invited to a quarterly luncheon with Mr. Foxx, Mr. Rice, Mr. Marsili and each of the Division Chiefs. The Emergency Operations Center was transformed into a festive dining hall so that employees could enjoy a nice meal and some friendly conversation.

The **Wall of Fame** employees who attended the luncheon include Stephanie Walters, Charles Baker, Ronald Hunter, David Hopkins, Mark Fabula, Benzina Townsend, Sgt. Sandra Butterfield, Terry Garnett, Sgt. Helen

Crossett, Dan Zimmerman, Lisa Rice-Roundtree, Tennille Blue-Shaw, Gregory Blair, Anthony Parker, Thomas Haj, Dennis Pennington, Mike Lamin, and Janis Mims. Congratulations to these Transportation Super Achievers for doing such a wonderful job!



Director Al Foxx addresses **Wall of Fame** employees at a luncheon held in their honor.